

REMARKS

Before this amendment Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 10, 17, 18, 20, 23, 25, 36, 37, 39, 42-46, 51, 53, 54 and 56-86 were pending in the above-referenced patent application. Through this Reply, dependent claims 63-64 have been canceled, and new dependent claims 87-88 have been added. Claims 1, 4, 6, 20, 23, 25, 39, 54, 61, 62, 72 and 81 have been amended to further clarify the differences between the present invention and the cited references. The claims have been listed in numerical sequence. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 1, 4, 53, 54, 56, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67 and 70 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Wakeman. The rejections are traversed, and allowance of the claims as amended is respectfully requested because Wakeman does not disclose all of the limitations of the claims. As per Claim 1, Wakeman discloses a slot 17 for coins and an opening 18 for bills on the top of a bank casing (see page 2, lines 58-87, Fig. 1). Bills that are folded and inserted into the slot 17 fall onto the bottom surface 16. Further, coins are inserted into the opening 18 and fall onto the bottom surface 16 through the chute *s* (Fig. 3). Specifically, the coins push the upper end 21b of the plate 21, tilting the plate 21 on hinges 22, creating a passage way between the plates 21 and 19 of the chute *s*, and fall onto the second surface 16. The chute *s* is made up of the plates 19, 21 and the side flanges 20, without a bottom. Indeed the lower end 21a of plate 21 overlaps the plate 19 (Wakeman, page 2, lines 74-87). Only the bottom surface 16 maintains objects put/dropped into the safe.

As such, Wakeman does not disclose “a first support surface to maintain a device thereon within the enclosure, ... a second support surface ... to receive and maintain thereon items inserted into the housing ..., wherein the housing includes a top wall and a bottom wall connected by side walls, such that the second support surface is connected to a side and/or bottom wall of the housing and is located between the top and bottom walls, and the first support surface and the second support surface are spatially offset” (Claim 1). Wakeman has only one support surface 16 for maintaining objects. There is no other support surface connected to a side and/or bottom

wall, between the top and bottom walls.

Further, a safe according to Claim 1 includes “an aperture that allows inserting items into said enclosure”, “second support surface located in relation to the aperture to receive and maintain thereon items inserted into the housing through the aperture”, and a “port hole is located proximate the first support”. Further, according to Claims 53 and 54, the “port hole and/or aperture are on side walls of the safe” (Claim 53), wherein the “bottom wall is used to support the safe” (Claim 54). By contrast, the slot 17 and opening 18 of Wakeman are on a top wall of the casing, opposing the bottom surface 16. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that rejections of claims 53-54, and all claims dependent therefrom, should be withdrawn. Further, the bottom surface 16 in Wakeman is simply a bottom wall, and not a second surface comprising a shelf connected to at least a side wall of the housing. Indeed, Wakeman does not disclose a shelf or a divider as claimed. Nor does Wakeman disclose a door attached to a sidewall of the housing, and an opening and an aperture on a side wall, wherein the bottom wall supports the safe. Therefore, for at least these reasons, Claim 1 and all claims dependent therefrom, should be allowed.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 17, 18, 20, 23, 36, 37, 72 and 86 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wakeman in view of Israel. Claims 6, 9, 10, 25, 39, 42-44, 51, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 69, 71 and 73-58 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wakeman in view of Israel and Gross. Claims 45 and 46 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wakeman in view of Israel, Gross and List. The rejections are traversed because for reasons provided above, the claims as amended include limitations not disclosed by Wakeman and Israel, alone or in combination. Further, Israel is directed to a safe with interchangeable doors. As in Wakeman, the aperture 21 in Wakeman is on top of the safe, and not on a sidewall. Even if the references are combined, the result would be a safe with aperture on a top wall, not on side walls, as claimed. And, Israel does not include a port hole. Similar to Wakeman, Israel does not provide first and second surfaces, and an aperture so that items can be dropped onto the second surface through the aperture. Gross provides a safe with jambs that make the safe tight, and fire proof. There is no shelving in Gross as in the claimed invention for

receiving objects.

Further, there is no motivation to combine the multitude of the references the Patent Office has utilized, to arrive at the present invention. The claimed invention provides a safe primarily designed for storing electronic devices, such as portable computers and cell phones, with the ability to pass a power cord therethrough to power such devices with the safe doors closed. There is also a slot for dropping objects into the safe. The references, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the claimed invention. Further, none of the cited references provides a motivation to be combined with other references to solve the problems that are alleviated by the present invention. Indeed, the problems solved by the present invention did not even exist at the time period the cited references were filed. Therefore, for at least these reasons, rejection of claims under 35 USC 103(a) should be withdrawn, and the claims as amended should be allowed.

Formal Drawings

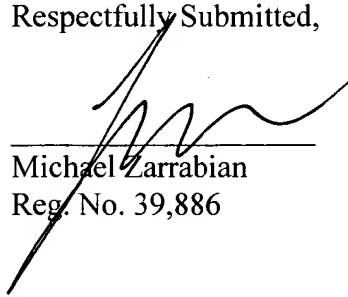
Applicant hereby submits four sheets of formal drawings to replace the informal drawings initially filed with the application. No new matter has been added. Entry of the drawings is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, and other reasons, all the claims should be allowed. Re-examination, reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested. As the number of independent and dependent claims after this amendment do not exceed the maximum already paid for, no additional claim fees are required.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: March 23, 2004

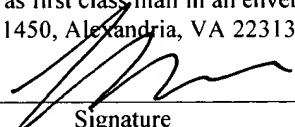


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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